

FMAP. The poorest of the poor in our country are able to get Medicaid through the State programs, and we assist at the Federal level. Those programs, in most States, are in a perilous state. They have cut a lot of the programs. A lot of people who are eligible for certain Medicaid procedures and office visits and things of that nature have been terminated already. I have received calls from at least 20 Governors—and it is not just Democratic Governors—who are desperate for this money.

So everything in this bill is paid for except FMAP and the situation I related to regarding unemployment compensation extension. Everything else is paid for. The doctor fix is paid for in the amendment that is now before us where cloture has been filed. So I hope we can work through these amendments the Republicans have to have and we have to have on our side and, if possible, we can go ahead and set up a vote to get rid of this piece of legislation today; otherwise, we will have a cloture tomorrow, and 30 hours runs after that, and by that time the doctors and patients will be harmed significantly, notwithstanding the fact that the unemployed have already been hurt.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### THUNE AMENDMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Democrats continue to argue among themselves about how much they want to add to the deficit. Yesterday, they unveiled their latest proposal, which would add another \$50 billion. And they are calling this an accomplishment—an accomplishment they reached not by making any tough choices but by shortening the length of time they would pay for programs they know they will end up extending anyway. Only in Washington would people boast about saving money they fully intend to spend down the road. And only in Washington would people raid a trust fund intended to pay for oilspill cleanup to cover completely unrelated spending in the middle of an oilspill. Let me say that again: Only in Washington would people raid a trust fund intended to pay for oilspill cleanup to cover completely unrelated spending in the middle of an oilspill.

So Democrats can continue to play these games or they can join Republicans in voting for the Thune amendment later today. The Thune amendment would actually do the thing Americans want us to do right now; that is, lower the deficit and create real opportunities for job growth.

Senators will have a simple choice today: They can either vote to reduce the deficit or they can lock arms with

the Democratic leadership and dig an even deeper hole of debt, when most Americans think \$13 trillion is far too much already. If you are even remotely attuned to what Americans are asking us, this would be an easy choice. Our colleagues across the aisle have come down to the Senate floor over and over to claim the mantle of fiscal responsibility. Well, today they can prove it. Americans want us to show we are serious about lowering the debt. Senators will have that opportunity later today.

So I ask my colleagues on both sides to join with me today and vote in favor of the Thune amendment.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period of morning business until 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the time under the control of the majority be equally divided between myself, Senator SHAHEEN, and Senator NELSON of Florida.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— S. 3462

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I rise today to ask that my legislation, S. 3462, which would grant subpoena power to the Presidential commission tasked with investigating the BP oilspill, be passed by unanimous consent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. INHOFE. Reserving the right to object, Madam President, I think I will object at this time. The bill was just introduced 7 business days ago. It has been referred to the Judiciary Committee, where I assume Chairman LEAHY will take a thoughtful look at it. Senator REID has asked his committee chairmen to report out oilspill legislation by the 4th of July for consideration next month, so I think we should give that process an opportunity to work. So I do object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I don't understand. We are 58 days into this oilspill. Eleven lives have been lost. We have seen up to 97 million gal-

lons of oil in the Gulf of Mexico that is already on the shores of the gulf. We have thousands of wildlife covered in oil, many of them dead. We have fishermen who have lost their livelihoods, some, we guess, maybe for generations. We have countless hotels and restaurants that are empty during what should be their prime tourist season. I don't understand why, given all of this—the full devastation of this catastrophic spill is far from being known, although we know it is going to be one of the worst economic and environmental disasters in American history, and we need to make absolutely certain this never happens again—why people are still objecting to giving the bipartisan commission charged with investigating this disaster the subpoena power to do what they need to do to make sure this never happens again.

In order to have a full and fruitful investigation, this commission must have subpoena power to get to the bottom of what safety precautions BP did and did not take leading up to the Deepwater Horizon explosion. Subpoena power is essential to their task of making meaningful recommendations on how to prevent future disasters. That is why I, along with 18 other Senators, have introduced this legislation to grant subpoena power to this commission. It is unacceptable for BP and the other companies responsible for this oilspill to continue to stonewall the American people.

I don't understand why my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are objecting to this. I would assume they are as interested in getting to the bottom of this disaster as the rest of us are, and this stonewalling is something I just don't understand.

I yield the floor.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, let me respond to the Senator from New Hampshire.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator does not have control of the time at this moment.

Mr. INHOFE. I was just reassuring her. I think I agree with everything she said. Mine was the process we are talking about, and I think that is the process the majority leader was recommending.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Could the Presiding Officer tell me how much time remains for the majority side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There are 6 minutes 20 seconds remaining.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Would the Presiding Officer let me know when I have exhausted 2 of my 3 minutes?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Yes.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise once again to ask unanimous consent—and I will do so shortly—to hold oil companies accountable for their spills. This is really a sense of who is on your side. Are we going to take the side of big oil or are we going to take